A Breif Account of many memorable Passages of the

LIFE & DEATH

OF THE

EARLE

OF

SHAFTSBURY.

Sometime Lord High Chancellor of

ENGLAND,

Who Departed this life the 21st. day of [redacted] 1683.

GIVING

An impartiall Relation of his Loyalty to His Majesty in the late times, and the great endeavours he used, to bring in the King into *England*, unto his just rights, in peace and safety; with His Majesties gratefull acknowledgment of these his kindnesses to him, in preferring him to several Eminent Places of Honour, and Trust. Together, with his great patience under the loss of the same. Also his twice Imprisonment in the Tower, and his witty answer to one of the Popish Lords upon his Imprisonment; his Releasement, and severall Plotts, and Sham-Plotts of the Papists, used to take away his Life for his vigalancy, and care for the Protestant Religion, and their disappointments. Of his arrivall in *Holland*, and his kind entertainment there. Together, with his Sickness, and worthy Speeches a little before his death. Concluded with a Prayer, worthy of the perusall of all persons.

Printed for *J. Conyers* in Duck-Lane.

A breif Account of ſome Remarkable paſſages of

The LIFE & DEATH OF THE *EARLE of SHAFTSBURY.*

IT is not my preſumption, in this Sheet to write the Life of this great States-man, but to give the Reader a brief Account of ſome remarkable paſſages in the ſame, for the ſatisfaction of the meaner ſort, that cannot purchaſe large volumes.

Anthony Earle of *Shaftsbury*, Baron *Ashley* of *Wimbourn*, and Lord *Cooper* of [illegible] as deſcended from the honourable and ancient Family of [illegible] *Wimbourn St. Giles's*, in the County of *Dorſet*.

We [illegible] place, (laying aſide all his other vertues) treat of the Loyalty of this noble Peer, in the words of the late Author, ſaith he, Could we have taken a view of the inſide of this noble Peer, we might have ſeen his heart full of Loyalty to his Prince, love to his Countrey, zeale for the Proteſtant Religion; the ſettlement of which can only ſecure us from the attempts of His Majeſty's, and his people's Enemies. With what admirable policy did influence and manage the Councils in the late times, in what he was concerned in? during the *Inter Regnum*, towards His Majeſty's intereſt, and with what admirable ſubtilty did he turn the ſtream of their Counſells? and with unwearied diligence did he tugg at the helm of State, till he had brought in his great Maſter the King into his Kingdomes again, in proſperity and ſafety, to the joy of all good Subjects.

His Houſe was a Sanctuary for diſtreſſed Loyaliſts, and his correſpondency with the King: Friends, though cloſely managed, as the neceſſity of thoſe times required, are not unknown to thoſe that were the principle managers of his Majeſty affaires at that time; this made the late Uſurper *O. Cromwell* ſo jealous of him, whoſe arbratary G[illegible] ver[illegible]

vernment he withstood to the utmost of his power. And we find that Sir *Anthony Ashly Cooper* was accused before the *RUMP* Parliament, in the Year 1659. for keeping intelligence with the King, and having provided Forces in *Dorset-shire*, to joyn with Sir *George Booth*, in attempting to bring in our noble King, that now is to his rightfull Throne; and also his concurrence with Generall *Monke*, in that importunant juncture, if we remember that his Regiment was one of the first that declared for a *Free Parliament*, and Generall *Monke* in *March*, 1659. so zealous was he in putting all his strength to turn the great Wheele of State.

And at the time of his Majesties Restoration, as most signal testimony of His Majesty's good opinion of his former actions, he was advanced to be one of the first rank in His Majesty's most honourable Privy Councel, and was placed above his Royall Brother the Duke of *Glocester*, even Generall *Monke* himself, whom the King used to call his political father; And three dayes after His Majesties Coronation, he was created Baron *Ashley* of *Wimborn St. Giles's*, and also Lord *Cooper* of *Paulet*, and at last another mark of Royal favour in the Year 1672. He was made Earle of *Shaftsbury*, for his wise administration in his Majesty's affaires, he was made Chancellour of the *Exchequer*, and some time after that, made Lord High Chancellour of *England*, about the beginning of the year 1672. which place he executed with the greatest Judgment and Equity imaginable.

Thus having briefly traced this great Minister of State in these mighty imployments under his great and good master the King; I shall take some notice of his relinquishment of that high imployment, and what happened to him since:

About *November*, 1673. His Majesty was pleased to send for the Lord Chancellour to *Whitehall*, where he resigned the great Seale of *England* to his Majesty, and was dismist from being Treasurer of the *Exchequer*; In the Afternoon of the same day the Earle of *Shaftsbury* was visited by Prince *Rupert*, with other great Lords, at *Exeter* house, where they gave his Lordship thanks for his faithfull and honourable discharge of that great imployment. Thus this great Minister of State, to the universall satisfaction of all good men, being raised to that high degree of interest in his Masters favour, without a murmur, laid all his honour at his Majesties feet, and was observed not to abate of the cheerfulness of his temper, upon the loss of all these temporal, ho-

honourable, imployments : I ſhall conclude this part of his life with a Character that a late Author gave of him.

His choice ſagacity,

Strait ſolved the knot that ſubtile Lawyers ty'd,
And through all fogs diſcern'd the oppreſſed ſide,
Baniſh'd delays, and ſo this noble Peer
Became a Star of honour in our Sphere :
A needfull Atlas *of our State.*

On the 16*th.* of *February*, 1676. this Earle was ſent Priſoner to the *Tower*, by the order of the Houſe of Lords ; there were at the ſame time committed ſeveral other Lords, for maintaining, *That the then Parliament was diſſolved, and ought not to ſit any longer* ; where he continued Priſoner about a years time, and after his ſubmitting himſelf to His Majeſty and the Parliament, he was diſcharged by acknowledging his fault. A little after his releaſement this Parliament was preroged and after diſſolved. Now was the wicked Plot of the Jeſuites, and Papiſts, diſcovered by the great fidelity of Dr. *Oates*, which convinced both King, Lords, and Commons, and all the Nation in generall, of a damnable, treaſonable, Popiſh deſign to murder our King, with the reſt of the Nobility, and Gentry, and to reduce the Proteſtant Church to *Romiſh* Idolatry, and the State to a *Catholique* ſlavery.

On the 7*th.* of *March*, 1678. Another Parliament met at *Weſtminſter* ; This Parliament did, like noble Patriots, endeavour to give check to the bloody Popiſh deſignes a foot, and paſſed many excellent Votes for that purpoſe, many Members acquited themſelves in their Speeches like men of high ſenſe of the miſeries the nation was like to be involved in ; this Houſe carried up their Impeachments to the Houſe of Lords, againſt the Lord *Powis*, *Stafford*, *Arundel*, Lord *Peters*, Lord *Bellaſis*, for high Treaſon, and other high Crimes : But I ſhall forbear mentioning any farther, only inſtance how this noble Peer was ſtruck at in that Helliſh deſign ; I ſhall referr the Reader to what hath been allready publiſhed in Print, onely note two or three things of ſome perſons, that made attempts on the life of this noble Peer, firſt, by *Dangerfield*, who had a great ſumm offered him to have murdered the Earle of *Shaftsbury*, on whom the rage of the bloody Romiſh party was now ſo great, that they left no baſe and unwarrantable action unattempted, To robb him of his life ; ſome were hyred to ſtab or Piſtoll him ; others to ſwear Treaſon againſt him ; or any other way

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the Devil put in their heads. Another deſign againſt this noble Peer was to have been acted by a woman, called, Madam *Cellier*, a Popiſh Midwife, which ſhe attempted that curſed deſign under the pretence of a viſite to the Earle, and under pretence of her paying her thanks for favours received through his meanes; but ſhe had a conſecrated Dagger under the skirt of her gown, ready to have expreſt her gratitude, by opening the veins of this Proteſtant Peers heart.

Is then loyall innocency, and Proteſtant integrity, Armour of proof againſt Poyſons, Piſtolls, and Poniards? no; the *Catholick* Gallantry ſtops not here, but purſues this noble Peer with forgery of his hand, and other little ſham-plotts; what baſe and villainous acts the bloody Papiſts uſed, to deſtroy the Earle of *Shaftsbury*, by many endeavours to have ſtabb'd him, as hath been depoſed by many perſons, to whom the Parliament, as well as the nation, have given beleif. I ſhall inſtance one more of their miſcheifous practiſes in this kind: There was a Gentleman who was a Commander of a Regiment of Horſe, in the late King's Army, and loſt all for his ſake, and his preſent Majeſty's, writ to this noble Peer about a remedy againſt the Gout, which he uſed to be afflicted with very much; this Letter was intercepted, and (the perſon then living in the *French* King's Dominions) after adding to it an account, *That the Writer was able to furniſh the Earle with forty thouſand Souldiers from* France, *to oppoſe the D. of* Yorks *Intereſt*; it was then conveyed to ſome of the *French* King's Miniſters, who, they ſuppoſe, would ſend a Copy hither: but by a ſtrange providence, the original was returned into the Gentleman's own hands.

Nor were they yet wanting in throwing dirt and ſlandring this Noble Peer, in his Reputation; which faculty they are famous at, for now a Pacquet of baſe Libels and treaſonable reflections were by the Penny poſt ſent to a Printer, and Copies of the ſame diſperſt about the parts of *Weſtminſter*, All of venomous and malicious ſlanders and imputations, tending to the taking away the Life of the Earl of *Shaftsbury* and divers other Peers of Honourable account; but the Printer deteſting ſuch a deſigne, publiſhed an invitation to any perſon that would diſcover the Author or publiſher of that infamous Libel. And now we are got into ſuch a bog of Plots, ſhamplots, Perjurers, ſubornations, as the hiſtories of no Age can parallel: In *October*, during the Seſſions of the laſt Parliament, its remarkable, that *Franciſco de Faria* Interpreter to the *Portugal* Embaſſadour, amongſt other matters re-

relating to the Plot, gave Information to the Bar of the Houſe that he was tempted to kill the Earl of *Shaftsbury* by throwing a hand Granado into his Coach as he paſſed the rode into the Countrey. But to ſumm up all, ſeveral methods that were invented to be Executed againſt the Life of this Peer were innumerable by theſe Jeſuited Crew, who ſet all her inventions and engines on work to make away the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, he was the Beam in their eye, and that clog that hindred the motion of their curſt deſignes; what have they not attempted to make him diſtaſteful to the King through the foulneſs of their treaſons on him as was made appear before the King & Councel in *October* 1681. that *Fitzgerard* told Mr. *Haines* that he the ſaid *Fitzgerard* poſſeſſed his Majeſty, and had given it under his hand and Seal, that the late Plot was a Presbyterian Plot, and invented by the Earl of *Shaftsbury* on purpoſe to exterpate the Royal Family, and to dethrone his preſent Majeſty, and turn *England* into a Commonweal, or elſe to ſet the Crown upon the Earls own head, with more ſuch wicked treaſonable matter, a further Account you may have in his Tryal.

But a new Parliament was ſummoned to appear at *Oxford*, where things of as high nature was Agitated, as ever came before the conſideration of a Parliament, no leſs then preſervation of the Kings Majeſty's perſon, the Proteſtant Religion, & the good of the people of *England*, All which now was invaded by the bloody deſigns of the Papiſts, but being very hot about the buſineſs of *Fitzharris* & things of the like nature, it pleaſed his Majeſty to diſſolve them.

Sometime after *Fitzharris* was tryed and Executed, The Earle of *Shaftsbury* was again committed to the *Tower* of *London*, the circumſtance of his Examination and Aquital would take too much room here to be recited. To finiſh this tragical ſtory, only I cannot omit that on the 15. *Auguſt* 1681. Mrs. *Fitzharris* gave a depoſition on Oath, that her husband a little before his Execution, not only told her what great offers he had made him if he would have charged that treaſonable and infamous Libel (for which he was executed afterwards for,) on this Noble Peer, and the Lord *Howard*, and that he adviſed her to do it to ſave his life, though he proteſted at the ſame time that they were wholly innocent; ſhe likewiſe depoſed that a certain Gentleman aſſured her that ſhe ſhould have what money ſhe pleaſed, if ſhe would accuſe the Earl and the Lord *Howard* as the Authors of the ſaid

Libel,

Libel, but they having tampered with ſo many on the account of this baſed deſign, but that it was impoſſible but their conſult muſt take wind, eſpecially when we conſider they were a people, that either to ſupply their neceſſities, or to feed their ambition, or more probable thought irreſiſtable fatility had blab'd and diſcovered the ſecrets of holy mother, and had ſpake ſo unſeaſonably in her tip that they had ſpoyld her game, what ſecurity could theſe Romiſh Sophiſters have, but that their cork'd veſſel would prove leaky again? I ſhall give one memorable paſſage, ſaid to have paſſed between the Earl and one of the Popiſh Lords, ſoon after his Commitment; the ſtory is this, meeting accidently with one of the Popiſh Lords, he was asked by him *what his Lordſhip did there, and that he little thought to have his good company?* to which the Earl of *Shaftsbury* replyed, *that he had lately been ſick of an Ague, and was come there to take ſome Jeſuits powder.* It was ſaid, during the whole time of his Lordſhip being in the Tower, he remained very chearful beyond what could have been expected from a perſon labouring under ſuch extream pains and diſeaſes; during the Earls impriſonment, many made it their buſineſs to detract and villify him and it was their mode to drink his health at an hepenſtring, and call him *Tony Tapskin* and King of *Poland*. After the Earls Tryal, it is reported he Arreſted one *Baines*, one of the witneſſes for a Conſpiracy, alſo ſeveral others, but being not ſuffred to have his Tryal againſt them in *London*, and *Middleſex*, he remitted the ſame till another oportunity. Thus have we given a brief account of the moſt remarkable things relating this great Peer, to this time, after which he lived very private at his houſe in *Alderſgate ſtreet*, till the beginning of the month of *November*, when tis reported he left *England* and landed at *Brill* in *Holland*, where he was nobly entertained by the States, and as ſome ſay, hath put into their ſtock a conſiderable ſumm of mony.

But amongſt the reſt, let us take cognizance of his deportment in the time of his ſeeming affliction, he was little or nothing diſmaid at the contrary current which oppoſed the ſtream of his aſpiring mind, which was a generous and magnanimous ſpirit in him, for indeed he was as much befriended by unexpected favours abroad, as afflicted by domeſtick troubles in his own native ſoil, his reception in *Holland* was unqueſtionably very kind, as doubtleſs was appertinent to a perſon of his parts. It is not to be doubted but the many tranſactions happening in his time had recorded him there as well as in other

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Countries for a Polititian, and ſo was he received by them. His deportment there was ſuch, that he obliged all that came near him, indulged all that knew him, and at his death, left no man without an obligation of a *memento*. It was much to be taken notice of, that during the time of his ilneſs, he rather ſeemed to be of better compoſure in mind than ordinary, as ſeeming to imbrace his malady, with a kind of welcome, that might tranſmute his ſoul into that endleſs happineſs which he had been ſo long labouring for, he ſeemed to covet after that continual bleſſing which alone makes happy, and rejoyc'd at his approching change; Oh happy is that man, who like an undaunted Champion, can boldly look upon the pale meſſenger of grim death without terrour, when no aſtoniſhment comes to amaze the drooping ſences, but on the contrary, if filled with comfort, at the perfect aſſurance of a better ſtate, by the help and aſſiſtance of a bleſſed change, no peace like a quiet mind, no comfort like the peace of conſcience, nor no conqueſt like the victory over ſin, thrice happy is that man whom the thoughts of death cannot terrify; then let us all labour ſo to live here, that we may aſſure our ſelves of an inheritance hereafter that ſhall furniſh our ſouls with joys everlaſting that have no end. But when he perceived that his fatal hour was moſt certainly approaching, with a moſt heavenly frame he prepared himſelf to meet with that unwelcome meſſenger, taking great and particular care of his Menial ſervants, that will imprint a memorial in their (now bleeding) hearts; ſo having ſetled affairs in his houſe according to his own mind and Will, he recommended his ſoul to him that gave it, in theſe following words and manner.

O *Moſt gracious and merciful Lord God, who out of thy infinite mercy and goodneſs haſt preſerved and protected me through an Ocean of trouble and perplexity, yea, and brought me out of a labarinth of danger, which without thine aſſiſtance I could never have waded through, and now ſince by thy mercy I am made ſenſible of thy unſpeakable Love to me in this my laſt hour; I beſeech thee with an unfeigned deſire to have mercy upon my immortal ſoul, and let thine Angel conduct it to the Throne of thine everlaſting happineſs. Lord preſerve and keep my Soveraign Lord* Charles *the II. King of the Land of my Nativity, protect that poor Nation, now in a tottering condition, from the yoke and burthen of Popiſh tyranny, that the Goſpel may flouriſh in the dominions thereof, Lord ſtrengthen me in this hour of tribulation, that I may cheerfully paſs through the dark paſſage, which leads to thy never fading light*; Amen.

FINIS.

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